



News Release

USDA Forest Service
Cibola National Forest and Grasslands
Magdalena Ranger District
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For Immediate Release

Magdalena Ranger District Expands Fire Restrictions

Magdalena, NM – June 13, 2013. The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands' Magdalena Ranger District is expanding fire restrictions. Effective 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 17, the San Mateo, Datil and Magdalena Mountain units will begin Stage II fire restrictions and the Bear and Gallinas units will begin Stage I fire restrictions.

"The Magdalena Ranger District continues to experience extreme drought conditions that are not expected to change in the near future," said Forest Supervisor Elaine Kohrman. "Because of these conditions, I feel it is necessary to expand these fire restrictions to decrease the likelihood of human-caused wildfires and to protect public health and safety."

"Although the district will be under fire restrictions, there are many activities that the public can still enjoy on the Forest, such as picnicking, hiking and camping," said District Ranger Dennis Aldridge. "Please use extreme caution when you're on the Forest, because it is very dry."

Stage I fire restrictions include:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove, except within a Forest Service developed recreation site, or improved site. **Exceptions:** The use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices are allowed providing such devices meet the fire underwriter's specifications for safety and has a turn-off valve.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
3. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.

Stage II fire restrictions include:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove, anywhere on the district. **Exceptions:** The use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, propane grills, or heating devices is allowed, provided such devices meet the fire underwriter's specification for safety and has a turn-off valve.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, at a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
3. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.
4. Discharging a firearm, air rifle or gas gun.

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5. Operating a chainsaw, or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
6. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device that is properly installed, maintained and in effective working order. They must meet either USDA Forest Service or appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice
7. Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with an open flame.
8. Possessing or using a motor vehicle off National Forest System roads, except when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway or overnight parking in Forest Service-developed campgrounds and trailheads.

There are exemptions to these restrictions and are noted on the restrictions orders posted in the "Alerts and Notices" section on the Cibola's web page: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola>.

Current fire restrictions for the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands:

- **Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands:** No restrictions.
- **Kiowa/Rita Blanca National Grasslands:** Begins Stage I fire restrictions on June 16.
- **Magdalena Ranger District:** Will begin Stage II fire restrictions for the San Mateo, Datil and Magdalena Mountain units and Stage I fire restrictions on the Bear and Gallinas units on June 17.
- **Mountainair Ranger District:** Enacted closure order on June 10.
- **Mt. Taylor Ranger District:** In Stage II Fire Restrictions. The district's personal woodcutting permit season is delayed.
- **Sandia Ranger District:** Enacted closure order on June 10.

For more information, contact:

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Useful fire websites:

- Southwest Coordination Center: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>
- New Mexico Fire Information: <http://nmfireinfo.com/>
- National Interagency Fire Center: www.nifc.gov
- FireWise: www.firewise.org
- Fire Restrictions across the US: <http://firerestrictions.us/>